

## Preliminary Amendment

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 -18. Please replace cancelled claims 1-18 with the claims set forth below:

1-18. (cancelled).

19 (new). Use of a protein to modulate the viscosity of a composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s), wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk proteins, and 5 hydrolysates thereof.

20 (new). The use according to claim 19, wherein said viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, pectin, beta-glucan, mucilage, and carrageenan.

21 (new). The use according to claim 20, wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arable gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.

22 (new). A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s).

23 (new). The composition of claim 22 having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature.

24 (new). The composition of claim 22 wherein the ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1.

25 (new). The composition of claims 22 comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition.

26 (new). The composition of claim 22 wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan.

27 (new). The composition of claim 26 wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.

28 (new). The composition of claim 22 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

- 29 (new). Use of a composition of claim 22 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.
- 30 (new). A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s).
- 31 (new). The composition of claim 30 having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature.
- 32 (new). The composition of claim 30 wherein the ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1.
- 33 (new). The composition of claims 30 comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition.
- 34 (new). The composition of claim 30 wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof.
- 35 (new). The composition of claim 30 wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan.
- 36 (new). The composition of claim 35 wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.
- 37 (new). The composition of claim 30 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.
- 38 (new). Use of a composition of claim 30 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.
- 39 (new). A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof.
- 40 (new). The composition of claim 39 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

41 (new). Use of a composition of claim 39 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

42 (new). A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof.

43 (new). The composition of claim 42 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

44 (new). Use of a composition of claim 42 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

45 (new). A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin.

46 (new). The composition of claim 45 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

47 (new). Use of a composition of claim 45 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

48 (new). A method of treating and/or preventing metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes, and/or of lowering blood cholesterol level in a mammal in need of such a treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

- a) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);
- b) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature;
- c) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;
- d) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;

- e) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;
- f) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan and wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;
- g) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- h) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- i) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);
- j) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature;
- k) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;
- l) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;
- m) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- n) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;
- o) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;
- p) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- q) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) for the manufacture

of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

- r) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- s) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- t) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- u) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- v) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- w) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- x) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin; and
- y) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

49 (new). The method of claim 48, wherein said mammal is a human.

50 (new). A method for providing viscous soluble fibers to a mammal in need of such fibers comprising administering to said mammal a composition selected from the group consisting of:

- a) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);

- b) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature;
- c) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;
- d) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;
- e) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;
- f) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan and wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;
- g) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- h) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- i) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);
- j) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room temperature;
- k) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;
- l) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;
- m) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- n) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;

- o) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;
- p) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- q) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- r) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- s) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- t) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- u) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;
- v) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;
- w) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;
- x) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin; and
- y) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein,

soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

51 (new). The method of claim 50, wherein said mammal is a human.